

PRESENT STATUS OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

Channel Islands National Park contains a record of more than 10,000 years of human use and occupation of the islands. This record is contained in more than 1,700 archeological sites both on the islands and beneath park waters, and in the historic structures and landscape features associated with European exploration and settlement of the islands.

A human presence on the islands has most likely been established since the end of the Pleistocene. Currently the park contains the oldest dated archeological site in southern California, 10,700 BP, at Daisy Cave on San Miguel Island. In addition to Daisy Cave, the dating of "Arlington Woman", a partial skeleton excavated from Santa Rosa Island in the 1961 which dates to 13,000 years BP, relates to the beginning of occupation of this region.

Anacapa, Santa Barbara, and San Miguel Islands have been surveyed for archeological resources to a level adequate to establish their significance and list them on the National Register of Historic Places as archeological districts. Recent surveys of selected areas of Santa Rosa Island project the existence of 2,000 to 3,000 sites, including many caves and rock shelters with potential for perishable remains and a distinctive style of rock art. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) property on Santa Cruz Island was surveyed by Albert Spalding and Michael Glassow of the University of California at Santa Barbara in the 1970's, who projected the existence of 3,000 sites from the 10 percent of the island that was thoroughly covered. The TNC portion of the island is listed on the National Register as an archeological district. Prior to public acquisition in 1997, no archeological research had occurred on East Santa Cruz Island since 1928. Fieldwork in the last two years has located over seventy additional sites with one radiocarbon date indicating occupation 6000 years ago. Sites occur throughout the island, from sea level to 1700 feet, and numerous rock shelters show occupation.

While artifact collection and site vandalism have occurred on all the islands, many sites retain enormous research potential. With the rapid destruction of sites on the mainland, the

record of human development within the park is becoming the best remaining resource base for understanding not only island prehistory, but the development of Chumash and Gabrieleno culture. The northern islands retain Chumash material; Santa Barbara Island, primarily Gabrieleno but often visited by the Chumash, should be studied in coordination with research undertaken on Catalina, San Clemente, and San Nicholas Islands, as well as that of the northern islands.

The record, as understood so far, shows long term population growth, accompanied by more intensive resource use, more elaborate technology, widespread trade networks, and an increasingly complex society. Successful recent studies of this process have focused on the key significance of environmental change as a critical factor in the development of key Late Period institutions and the intensification of shell bead production, a major island economic specialization during the Late Period.

The prehistoric period came to an end as Europeans reached this area, spearheaded by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo's explorations in 1542. While Cabrillo is traditionally said to have been buried on San Miguel Island after dying as a result of an injury suffered landing on the island, his remains are unlocated and may be on Santa Rosa Island or Santa Catalina Island. A small monument, entered on the List of Classified Structures, overlooking Cuyler Harbor on San Miguel commemorates Cabrillo.

After the removal of Chumash populations to mainland missions around 1815 and a brief period of intensive sea otter hunting, Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa became land grants, developed as livestock ranches whose operations have continued nearly to the present day. Historic buildings and objects on both islands, while very different in character, remain as a legacy of this period. San Miguel Island, never a formal land grant, was leased to various ranchers over the years; its buildings are now archeological ruins. This material chronicles a period of often imprudent and shortsighted impacts on the islands' natural ecosystems.

The Anacapa Light Station, containing the last major lighthouse constructed on the west coast of the United States in 1932, became an automated station in 1967 with the National Park Service taking over use of the support buildings. The complex has been listed as a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places. Ruins of a small base show an increasing military presence on the islands beginning with World War II on Santa Rosa Island. Santa Cruz Island and Santa Rosa Island contain remains of drill rigs, which exemplify early technology in oil exploration.

As a consequence of the long human occupation, rising sea levels in geologically recent times, and centuries of prehistoric sea travel, prehistoric sites are potentially present in park waters. Some artifacts have been recovered by scuba divers. Park waters and beaches also contain at least 50 historic shipwrecks representing all significant trades; of these, 16 have been found and identified. Shipwrecks within the park are known to include the *Winfield Scott*, a gold rush era passenger steam ship; *Goldenhorn* and *Aggi*, large nineteenth century sailing vessels; the lumber schooners, *Comet*, *Dora Bluhm*, *J M Colman*, *Jane L Stanford*, *Watson A West*, and *G W Prescott*; sealing ships *NB*, *Kate and Anna*, *Surprise*, and *Ella G*; nineteenth century steamships *Crown of England* and *Cuba*; and early purse seiners *Labor*, *Adriatic*, and *Balboa*. These vessels, not all of which are located, identified, and documented, are by no means a total inventory of all wrecks in the park.

Resources Knowledge

The quality of baseline information on cultural resources ranges from good to poor, depending upon the specific island and the specific resource. There is a lack of basic inventory of many resources, and a consequent inability to define, prioritize, and counteract threats to cultural resources as a result of this deficiency.

Specific deficiencies include: (1) a lack of archeological survey data from East Santa Cruz Island; (2) a revised Historic Resources Study addressing Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands is not yet complete, with a consequent lack of entries on the List of Classified Structures (LCS) and the National Register of Historic Places; (3) no Cultural Landscape Inventory for the park; (4) an incomplete Submerged Cultural Resource survey of park waters, (5) a continuing backlog of uncataloged museum objects at non-NPS museums (6) the park's archives remains only partially identified, organized and catalogued; and (7) a lack of integration of cultural resource data into the park's Geographic Information System (GIS). Actions to correct these cultural resource needs are discussed more specifically in the remainder of this plan and in the project statements, which provide specific details on the required projects.

Resources Significance

The park's List of Classified Structures currently contains 49 listings. The List of Classified Structures (LCS) is a computerized, evaluated inventory of all historic and prehistoric structures having historical, architectural or engineering significance. The information in the database will be revised and updated in 2000 and approximately 10-15 structures will be added. Inclusion in the LCS is an indication of the resources' National Register significance.

Anacapa, Santa Barbara, and San Miguel Islands are listed in their entirety on the National Register of Historic Places as archeological districts at the regional level of significance. The portion of Santa Cruz Island owned by The Nature Conservancy, 90% of the island, is also listed on the National Register as an archeological district. Santa Rosa Island, containing possibly the most significant sites of all, is as yet unlisted although the sites are unquestionably eligible.

Table 3: Channel Islands Archeological Districts

Anacapa Archeological District	704 acres land area
Santa Barbara Archeological District	640 acres land area
Santa Cruz Archeological District	54,535 acres land area

San Miguel Archeological District	8,960 acres land area
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The 1853 wreck of the Winfield Scott, just off of Middle Anacapa Island, and the Anacapa Light Station are listed on the National Register. A nomination for the wreck of the Goldenhorn, Santa Rosa Island, is pending. Other localities, such as the ranch complexes on Santa Rosa Island and East Santa Cruz Island, and the wrecks of the Cuba, Comet, Jane L Stanford, and as many as forty other wrecks remain to be studied for their National Register potential.

Archeological Resources

The archeological resources contained within the park assume increasing importance as mainland materials are impacted ever more severely by urban development. The islands contain a record of development ranging from near the end of the Pleistocene, nearly 10,000 years ago up to the abandonment of the islands by the Chumash in the early nineteenth century. Phil Orr of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History proposed in the 1950's that Santa Rosa Island contained the remains of a Pleistocene period dwarf mammoth hunting culture. Although this claim is no longer generally accepted, the islands do contain a very long record of occupation; the lowest levels of SMI-261, Daisy Cave, and a partial skeleton found near the mouth of Arlington Canyon (so-called "Arlington Woman") appear to be more than 11,000 years old. Current research is attempting to clarify the age of this material, which apparently represents the beginning of human occupation on the islands. Current evidence indicates that the northern Channel Islands were settled at about the same time that humans appeared on the mainland and somewhat earlier than the southern Channel Islands.

The islands of San Miguel, Anacapa, and Santa Barbara have been relatively well surveyed for archeological sites. There are an estimated 2,000 sites on Santa Rosa Island. Intensive archeological survey concentrated along the coastline has added nearly 600 archeological sites to the inventory while covering approximately 40% of the island. This survey and other reconnaissance work reveal a diverse site assemblage, including historic wreck scatters, smaller prehistoric sites representing specialized activities, and Chinese abalone camps of the late historic period. Settlement was

concentrated along the coast, although inland rock shelters in favorable locations tend to show regular use as well. Regular use of maritime products clearly occurred, although the degree to which island plants and other terrestrial products may have been utilized remains to be documented by properly designed research projects; a project of this type is in progress at the U.C. Santa Cruz Island Reserve.

Well-designed sampling surveys covered roughly 10% of The Nature Conservancy property on Santa Cruz Island in the early 1970's. These have been augmented by continued work by Dr. Jeanne Arnold, UCLA, who has focused on the use of the chert quarries which are found along the eastern boundary line of the Conservancy property and in several areas of the western and southwestern shoreline; between Prisoner's Harbor and China Harbor; and in the upper Central Valley. Over twenty per cent of the island is now considered to have been intensively surveyed. Survey and excavation on Santa Cruz Island during the 1980's and 1990's by Larry Wilcoxon and Jeanne Arnold are of a very high standard; Wilcoxon's excavations remain unpublished while Arnold's publications are appearing regularly. Survey work on East Santa Cruz Island has recorded many large chert quarries as well as several habitation sites and rock shelters. The property could contain as many as 200 sites when totally recorded.

Isolated islands with access restricted both by natural conditions and by private ownership have seen little ground disturbing development with the result that numerous archeological sites have been preserved in a relatively pristine condition, at least compared to comparable mainland locations. The dominant use of the islands for grazing has preserved the vistas and open space associated with prehistoric times, although grazing has altered prehistoric ecosystems substantially. While superficially there have been no obvious changes, notable impacts have occurred, including pothunting, coastal erosion, and large-scale early "excavations" which recovered large numbers of artifacts while destroying great amounts of data. Prominent artifacts, such as stone bowls, tend to be more scarce now on the islands than was the case a hundred years ago, judging from the notes of these early excavators. Livestock and feral pigs have damaged many sites to varying degrees.

The absence of burrowing animals from the islands removes a major impact on the archeological record which has affected nearly all mainland sites by massive disturbance of underground deposits. Very clear and detailed stratigraphy is common in the middens of island sites. Frequently these middens are a meter or more in thickness and contain a wide variety of items within the matrix of mussel, abalone, and limpet shells, which dominate the deposit. Later sites frequently display large circular house pit depressions. Earlier sites frequently contain prominent large red abalone shells and are sometimes contained in a calichified sand matrix.

Archeological investigations of this sequence show the development of an extremely complex culture from relatively simple beginnings, all sustained on a hunting and gathering subsistence base without the development of agriculture. Through time a growing population made more effective and efficient use of the natural environment, with a relatively small impact on natural conditions. The Chumash experience stands in stark contrast to the historic period within the park, which saw increasingly heavy and disruptive use of the park ecosystems.

The early beginnings of this sequence are encountered at Daisy Cave in a stratum securely dated at more than 10,000 years of age and at Arlington Canyon where a contemporaneous partial human skeleton was recovered. The bottom layer of dense midden at Daisy Cave and the lowest midden level at SRI-6 date from the 8,000's, indicating reasonably permanent occupation on the islands at this time. Several more sites on San Miguel and Santa Rosa date from 7,000 years before present (BP) which marks the beginning of the Early Phase of the Chumash cultural sequence. Sites of this time have been located along the northern coast of Santa Rosa Island where they are often found with red abalone middens and calichified sand strata; they are probably present throughout the island.

Sites of the Middle Period, 2600 BP to 800 BP, are relatively common on the islands, although few have been securely dated. An expanding population occurs, with increasing exploitation of fish and pinnipeds. The development of the tomol, or plank canoe occurred during this period and greatly aided transportation and fishing in the Channel.

Extensive recent studies of Chumash microdrill manufacturing, bead manufacturing,

subsistence, and trade between the islands and the adjacent mainland has made it clear that substantial exchange occurred throughout the region during the final several centuries of prehistory and into the early contact period (1770s). Chert sources on Santa Cruz Island were heavily exploited in the island-based microdrill industry. Shell beads were made by the millions by islanders living in major coastal villages and exported to mainland consumers. The sophisticated plank canoe was the essential technological development that made these many economic changes possible. Craft specialists, more powerful leaders, and accelerated exchange all emerged at about A.D. 1150-1300, during the Transitional period.

Although Cabrillo contacted the Chumash in 1542, not until the establishment of missions along the California coast in the 1770's did the Chumash culture show any appreciable change. A vital historic-era economy continued to operate on the islands from the 1770s until the Chumash left the islands by 1819.

Historic Ranching Resources

The islands contain remains of stock ranches, dating back to Mexican land grants circa 1840, which began the development of western ranching. Ranch complexes on both Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa represent the span of development from that time to the present. Remains of the sheep operations on Anacapa, Santa Barbara and San Miguel Islands have all but disappeared and are now predominantly archeological in nature. Sheep ranching on Santa Rosa Island began in the mid-19th century. The buildings and structures that remain represent development by two ranching enterprises: the More family who purchased the island in 1869 and built the present ranch house and several of the barns and outbuildings, and the Vail and Vickers families who jointly purchased the island in 1901 and turned from sheep to cattle grazing. Nearly all of the ranch buildings and structures on Santa Cruz Island were constructed by a French entrepreneur, Justinian Caire, and his descendants. The architectural design of the buildings, the dry stone masonry walls and dams, and crops of olives and wine grapes show the European influence of Caire and his Italian workforce. Caire and his descendents grazed sheep on the island, although the Stanton family, who acquired the western 90 percent of the island in

1937, turned to cattle ranching and constructed a small ranch and some other features to accommodate the cattle operation.

Maritime Resources

Shipwrecks within the park represent the Gold Rush era, maritime commerce during the period from the 1870's to the present, and the evolution of merchant shipping during this period. The lumber trade is particularly well represented, with six vessels wrecked around the islands. Other wrecks relate to historic exploitation of island and maritime resources, particularly sealing and fishing around the islands. Also present are the remains of three vessels which supported island cattle and sheep ranches. The Anacapa lighthouse and its supporting structures, the last lighthouse complex constructed along the Pacific coast, illuminate the development of maritime transportation during this period. An unstudied series of small shipwrecks and fishing camps, which are now historical archeological sites, hold data relating to the development of commercial fishing on the islands. This material reflects the rise of Los Angeles as a major ocean port, the increasing harvest of island resources, and the integration of the region into the growing global economy.

Shipwrecks are the best known component of the submerged cultural resources of Channel Islands National Park, although recovery of stone vessels by scuba divers indicates that prehistoric artifacts, if not entire archeological sites, exist within park waters. As study of these materials proceeds, it is increasingly clear that many wreck scatters, especially of wooden vessels, lie on or near the high tide line and therefore contain "unsubmerged" elements. Even entirely submerged wrecks may relate to terrestrial manifestations. The *Goldenhorn*, whose wreck scatter lies off the southwest coast of Santa Rosa Island, contributed its cargo of coal to the local tide pools, where Chinese abalone fishermen collected it in piles, some of which can be seen today. Some wooden wrecks, like the *Comet* and the *Jane L Stanford*, whose currently documented remains lie above the high tide line, probably contain submerged elements. The distinction between "submerged" and "terrestrial" resources, at Channel Islands, is a highly artificial distinction in most cases, relating most meaningfully only to the logistics of access to the resource for research and documentation.

Ethnographic Resources

Chumash occupied the northern islands until approximately 1819 when populations relocated to the mainland missions established by the Spanish. The disruption of Chumash culture that ensued led some ethnographers to proclaim the extinction of the group in the twentieth century. Today approximately 4,000 identified Chumash dispute the accuracy of that claim and participate in a dynamic revitalization of Chumash culture and tradition. The park islands hold a prominent place in this movement, containing spiritual values as well as locations, such as contact period village sites, with direct historical significance. Reburial of ancestral Chumash remains, both those exposed by natural weathering and recovered from pothunters, has occurred in the park even before the passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Such activities undoubtedly will increase in the future. A recently completed ethnographic study will identify descendants of island populations in order to carry out NAGPRA consultations. While this study is not designed as an ethnographic overview for the park, it will recover significant information for that study.

Resource Condition and Threats

Erosion impacts most of the archeological sites within the park, especially those on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands. Accelerated plant growth since the end of grazing is retarding erosion for many of these sites, but coastal erosion will continue to gnaw away at many important localities. At least 1000 cubic meters of midden are lost each year from Santa Rosa Island as the result of coastal erosion.

Vandalism and pot hunting occur within the park, despite the protection afforded by the isolation of the islands. Several instances have occurred during the past few years and some of these, including one felony, have been successfully prosecuted. Increasing visitor access to the islands will result in increased amounts of intentional pilfering, as well as an increased level of unintentional disturbance. Both historic and prehistoric resources will be affected. The shipwrecks within the park are

particularly vulnerable to pilfering, especially of brass and bronze objects found within most wrecks.

The historic buildings, structures and landscape features on the islands vary in their condition. Many of these resources date back to the late 1900s, including the several buildings in the Vail-Vickers ranch complex on Santa Rosa Island; the masonry ranch houses and several outbuildings at Smuggler's and Scorpion ranches on Santa Cruz Island, as well as a number of cultural landscape features, such as stone wells, checkdam structures and retaining walls, and groves of eucalyptus, cypress and olive trees. While many of the buildings have seen active use since their construction and have been kept in good repair, other buildings and features are deteriorating and are in need of preservation measures. The masonry buildings may not meet current seismic codes and may need retrofit measures.